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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/683,570	10/09/2003	Shoji Ogushi	2933SEC-1	7657

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/683,570	OGUSHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kidest Bahta	2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _30 october 2007_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _2-22,24 and 26_ is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _2-22,24 and 26_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date _1012/07_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed
> or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
> subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
> matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made
> to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was
> made.

Claims 2, 4-22, 24 and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Thompson (US 2003/0115088) in view of Squeglia et al. (US 2002/0156692).

Regarding claims 2 and 24, Thompson discloses a computer system including a

management server to assist a worker who goes to a work place to perform work, in

deciding whether to accept a work item, the method comprising: storing reception

information representing a work request received from a client in a memory device of

the management server ((Abstract, element 16 and 22); sending work items in the

reception information (([0013]-[0014]), which have not been accepted by the worker

([040]), from the management server to a worker terminal used by the worker (Fig. 1);

receiving acceptance information ([0040]–[0042]), which corresponds to work items

selected by the worker from the unaccepted work items and is sent from the worker

terminal, by the management server (Fig. 6, [0035]); storing information about the

worker ([0037]) in the memory device based on the acceptance information ([Fig. 2

element 16).

Thompson fails to disclose sending necessary-part information, discriminated

from the reception information includes identifiers for parts necessary for the selected

work item and a quantity of the necessary-parts from the management server to the

worker terminal and a transport person terminal used by a transport person who

transports parts to the work place.

Squeglia sending necessary-part information (Fig. 6, elements 128 and 132),

discriminated from the reception information includes identifiers for parts necessary for

the selected work item and a quantity of the necessary-parts from the management

server to the worker terminal and a transport person terminal ([0044]-[0045]; i.e.,

Shipped) used by a transport person who transports parts to the work place ([0033]-

[004], Fig. 6, Fig. 8, Fig. 10, Abstract, i.e., An interface unit 40 is shown generally for

conditioning data transferred between the various information sources of FIG. 2 and

the portable unit 14. The interface unit 40 provides data conditioning, modulation or

demodulation of a carrier signal to transmit or recover an information signal

and signal conditioning for baseband transmission, as dependent on the nature

of the communications channel. The interface unit 40 supports both wired and

wireless transmissions and their related protocols. Both the portable unit 14

and the MDSC 20 communicate bi-directionally with the various databases and

modules of FIG. 2 for the purpose of entering data into or extracting data from

the databases and modules).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the teachings of Thompson with the teachings of Squeglia since a device is configured to transmit from the service site to said database a computer-readable order over a communications network, wherein said order allows to identify respective parts and quantity thereof to be made available for said service site. A processor is configured to process the order relative to the data stored in the database to determine availability of the parts identified in the order. An update module is configured to log transactions that occur in connection with the replacement parts for the service site.

As claims 4-22 and 26, Squeglia discloses,

4. The method according to claim 2, further including discriminating necessary parts and a work method required for a work item based on the reception information, wherein the information on the worker is equivalent to the necessary-part information and the work method (Abstract).

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the reception information includes a progress identifier indicating a work status of the worker and the method further includes: extracting work items including the progress identifier before acceptance from the reception information (Fig. 7, element 184; Fig. 8, element 206); and sending the work items including the progress identifier before acceptance to the worker terminal (Fig. 7, element 140).

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the work items to be sent to the worker terminal includes *at least one* of information on a type of a machine to be a work target, information on a time length expected to be needed for a work item, information on a

designated worker, information on whether a work item is urgent or not, and information on parts to be transported by a transport person ([0026]-[0028], [0056], [0089]).

7. The method according to claim 2, further including sending information capable of specifying a location of a worker and a work place, acquired by a position detecting mechanism, to the worker terminal([0027]-0028]).

8. The method according to claim 2, wherein the acceptance information includes a worker identifier, which is an identifier of the worker ([0068])

9. The method according to claim 2, further comprising setting a progress identifier for the worker stored in the reception information based on acceptance information as having been received ([0088]).

10. The method according to claim 2, further comprising sending received-part information on parts transported by a transport person and received by the worker at the work place, to the computer system from the worker terminal ([0026]).

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising updating carried-part information on parts carried by the worker and transported-part information on parts carried by the transport person with the received-part information ([0025]-[0026]).

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the received-part information is

information corresponding to received parts selected from necessary-part information

sent to the terminal used by the worker and is sent from the worker terminal and

received by the computer system ([0026]-[0028]).

13. The method according to claim 2, further comprising: receiving information on work

subject matter and used-part information on parts used in a task, sent from the worker

terminal, by the computer system at a time when the work is done ([0030]); and

updating the carried-part information, which is information on parts carried by the

worker, by the computer system with used-part information (0040]).

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the used-part information is information

corresponding to used parts selected from information on necessary parts sent to the

terminal used by the worker ([0026]).

15. The method according to claim 2, further comprising setting a progress identifier for

the worker stored in the work reception information as indicating completion of a task by

receiving work-completion information sent from the worker terminal when the work is

done ([0038]-[0039]).

16. The method according to claim 2, further comprising sending work technique

information on a work method to the worker terminal in response to a work technique

information request sent from the terminal used by the worker([0032]).

17. The method according to claim 2, wherein the reception information is classified into a category to which the worker belongs and stored in the memory device, and work items are extracted from the reception information corresponding to the category to which the worker belongs and is sent to the worker terminal ([0025]).

18. The method according to claim 2, wherein ranking of individual work items for displaying the individual work items arranged on the worker terminal is carried out based on priority information corresponding to the reception information. ([0044]).

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the ranked individual work items are arranged based on the ranking and the arranged individual work items are sent to the worker terminal (Fig. 2).

20. The method according to claim 2, further comprising sending goods information including an identifier of goods discriminated by the reception information, to at least either the worker terminal or a transport person terminal ([0044]).

21. The method according to claim 2, wherein the necessary-part information is output by an output device connected to the terminal used by the transport person (Fig. 10, element 524).

22. The method according to claim 2, wherein the necessary-part information or

information on used parts is output by an output device connected to the worker

terminal (Fig. 2).

26. The computer recording medium according to claim 24, wherein the computer

program instructions further comprise discriminating necessary parts and a work

method required for a work item based on the reception information and storing the

necessary-part information and information on the work method in the memory device,

at the stage of storing the reception information ([0044]-[0051]).

Response to Amendment/Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed November 14, 2007, have been fully considered but

they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 2 and 24, Applicant argues that Squeglia fails to disclose that necessary-

part information is sent from a management server to both a worker terminal and a

transport person terminal used by a transport person who transports parts to the work

place.

Examiner disagrees since Squeglia discloses that necessary-part information is

sent from a management server to both a worker terminal and a transport person

terminal used by a transport person who transports parts to the work place in [0033]-

[0034], [0044]-[0045], i.e., An interface unit 40 is shown generally for conditioning data

transferred between the various information sources of FIG. 2 and the portable

unit 14. The interface unit 40 provides data conditioning, modulation or demodulation of a carrier signal to transmit or recover an information signal and signal conditioning for baseband transmission, as dependent on the nature of the communications channel. *The interface unit 40 supports both wired and wireless transmissions and their related protocols. Both the portable unit 14 and the MDSC 20 communicate bi-directionally with the various databases and modules* of FIG. 2 for the purpose of entering data into or extracting data from the databases and modules.

The parts-ordering module 58 provides electronic inventory consumption recording so that inventory can be shipped from the supplier to the railroad operator or party responsible for the repair. The parts-ordering module 58 is integrated with the maintenance planning and scheduling database 52 to insure that parts required for scheduled maintenance activities are available in inventory just prior to the scheduled maintenance. This technique improves the forecasting of inventory purchases and assures that the parts inventory is maintained at an optimum level. Information regarding the number of parts in inventory and the location of such parts (for example, in the geographically distributed inventory shops maintained by the railroad or party providing repair services) is also available in the parts-ordering module 58.

Conclusion

3.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed Kidest Bahta whose telephone number is 571-272-3737.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application information Retrieval IPAIRI system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAG system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-fee).

Kidest Bahta

KIDEST BAHTA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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